



Good afternoon!

Another great week in the BASD! Before I provide a case count update for this week, I'd like to return to the information I provided in Monday's email. If you recall, I said that we received notification of 5 new cases (all Middle School students) over last weekend, but we hadn't completed contact tracing for all 5 cases yet. As an update to those 5 positive cases, there were a total of 8 students identified as close contacts to those 5 cases and quarantined.

Now for this week....Since my letter on Monday, we received confirmation of 16 new cases across the district. A summary of the new cases is shown in the chart below.

Building	Total number of known, confirmed, new cases since 10/11	*Since 10/11, the number of new cases - students/staff that were physically present in the building while infectious
High School	3 (all students)	2
Middle School	4 (all students)	3
Bellefonte Elem.	3 (all students)	2
Benner Elem.	1 (staff)	1
Marion-Walker Elem.	4 (3 students, 1 staff)	1
Pleasant Gap Elem.	1	0
BeLA	0	0

I'm also going to try to give a best estimate for the total number of students quarantined in my updates each time. I say "estimate" because sometimes we are notified about cases near the time I send my updates, and our principals and nurses may not have completed contact tracing and may not have identified all close contacts yet. That is the situation this week. Contact tracing for 15 of the 16 positive cases was completed at the time of this email. Parents have been notified if their children were identified as a close contact to the 15 recent cases. We received notice late this afternoon for the 16th case, a middle school student who tested positive. Dr. Garman was still working on contact tracing late this afternoon for that latest case. So, at the time of this email, there were a total of 16 students quarantined for 15 of the new cases since Monday.

As I have mentioned, with the new PA DoH rules, students wearing masks has significantly decreased the number of required quarantines compared to last year. Parents keeping their students home when they have symptoms or

may have been a close contact to someone else in the family also has reduced the number of possible close contacts in school because the students weren't in school while infectious. This has helped tremendously again this year.

Barring any breaking news, I'll send my next update letter on Monday morning, as usual. I hope you and your family have a wonderful fall weekend!

Sincerely,

Tammie Burnaford
Superintendent
Bellefonte Area SD